

Covid 19 Update  
June 4, 2020

Four new cases added since Tuesday, 3 antibody and 1 positive. No new addresses. Scituate cumulative total is 122. This does not include nursing homes in Scituate.

There's a lot we don't know about this virus including can you catch it again, what level of antibodies might protect you and will it go away in the summer the way the flu does. So please keep wearing masks, practice social distancing and wash your hands.

Phase 2 of Reopening Plan will likely happen on Monday, June 8th. Highlights:

In addition to takeout, restaurants will be able to open for outdoor dining, no indoor dining. The process of local governments allowing outdoor dining for those who don't already have permission will be speeded up. The Scituate Board of Selectmen will hear simple applications at their next meeting on June 9th. Our main concerns are to help businesses and insure public safety.

Other businesses and activities that will be allowed to resume under strict guidelines are: retail, hotels, motels, inns, nail salons, day camps and indoor recreational facilities for youth programs only. Please check the town website which has links to the State's entire list and guidelines. Nursing homes will be able to allow outdoor visits. Funeral homes will be able to increase the number of people allowed to attend services.

Scituate specific items:

Widows Walk driving range will be open soon.

The Recreation Department is looking at the State guidelines to determine what programs they can offer. It's our intent to run as many programs as possible.

The Library is working to clear up the backlog of orders that go back to March. Patrons who have orders have been notified that they will be able to start picking up orders in the Library Lobby from 10 to 3 today and 10 to 3 on Saturday. The Library will start taking orders for items from its own catalog (not other libraries) next week. Pick up days will be Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Returns can be done any day. We are waiting to hear from state as to when the library building can be reopened to the public. We want to open as soon as possible.

Town Hall is considered office space so we have to follow the guidelines for office space. Town Hall has been staffed throughout the Covid crisis. Next week we plan to bring all staff back to Town Hall with appropriate safety measures. Next, we will open to the public by appointment. This is necessary so we can log visitors in for contact tracing in the event of another virus outbreak. All commercial and government offices will be required to do so.

Public meetings such as the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen, etc. will continue to be held remotely until the 10 person gathering number is increased. This limit does not apply to legislatures. Town Meeting is the legislative body in Scituate so we will be holding Town Meeting. It is now scheduled for Saturday, June 27 at 9:00 a.m. at the High School Football field. We are proposing that we consider only time sensitive items including the operating budget, the capital budget and the CPC items. We will be getting information out to people as soon as possible. This will not be a "normal" Town Meeting.

Town Election is Saturday, June 13. Polls are open at high school gym from 9 am to 2 pm.

Between May and June so far, we have had nine days of more than one million gallons of water running through the Water Treatment Plant. Usually, we only have four days in the whole month of June where we exceed a million gallons a day. Please follow our water conservation rules: outdoor watering before 9:00 am and after 5:00 pm. Automatic sprinklers may only be used one day a week based on your voting precinct. Please check the town website for water rules. Let's do our best to save water.

There will be an informational meeting about the Tack Factory green sand filter water project for anyone interested on Tuesday, June 9th at 6:00 pm at the site #80 to #110 Tack Factory Pond Drive. Abutters have been notified. Representatives from DPW will be there. The project will begin shortly.

Finally, for the first time since the 1990s, Shawn Harris's name will not be on the ballot for re-election to the Board of Selectmen. Many, many thanks to Shawn for his many years of service. He will be missed. Best wishes to him in the coming years!